



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 25 July 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- Fox News reports some Ohio citizens may become victims of identity theft due to public document access where their personal information, including Social Security numbers, was posted on the Hamilton County Website. (See item [6](#))
- The New York Times reports Egyptian authorities said at least 90 people were killed in an attack at an Egyptian resort — an attack similar to one that tore apart resorts farther up the coast of the Sinai Peninsula nine months ago. (See item [43](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *July 23, Chicago Tribune* — **Nuclear plants on hold for large energy company.** Chief Executive John Rowe said Friday, July 22, that Exelon Corp. will not build more nuclear plants until the government solves the problem of storing spent fuel, and that it has no plans for any acquisitions in the near future. "Exelon has no intention of building a nuclear plant until there is a solution to the spent-fuel problem," said Rowe, speaking at the Chicago-based company's annual shareholders meeting. "Most companies share our view," said Rowe. Exelon is part of a consortium of utilities that was considering whether to build a new plant. Decades of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel is stored at more than 100 reactor sites around the country. The

spent fuel was to have been interred within Yucca Mountain in Nevada years ago, but technical problems and political opposition have held up the waste-dump project. It is unclear when Yucca Mountain will open, if it ever does.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/chi-0507230007jul23.1.5244874.story?coll=chi-business-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true>

2. **July 21, Reuters — People killed in Yemeni fuel price riots.** Eleven people were killed and scores injured on Thursday, July 21, in a second day of clashes between Yemeni security forces and rioters protesting fuel price increases. In the capital Sanaa, tanks and armored vehicles took up positions around the presidential palace, government ministries and oil sector offices. It was the first time tanks had been seen in Sanaa since the rioting broke out on Wednesday, July 20. Yemen, an oil-producer with declining resources, says the fuel price rises are in line with high global oil prices and are part of reforms backed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank launched in 1995 to prevent economic collapse. In Washington, the IMF said the elimination of fuel subsidies was one of a set of tough measures the government had taken to adapt to the expected decline in oil output. "The reasons for this and the accompanying measures to limit the impact of this decision on the most vulnerable groups were clearly laid out in the official statement issued by the government when it announced the decision," said IMF spokesperson Thomas Dawson.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/21/AR2005072100728.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

3. **July 22, CNET News.com — University of Colorado servers hacked.** The University of Colorado has become the latest educational institution to fall prey to hackers. The school is warning about 43,000 people that they may be at risk of having their identities stolen after two of its servers were attacked, it said Thursday, July 21. One server, at the school's health center, contained the names, Social Security numbers, student ID numbers, addresses and dates of birth of about 42,000 people, the university said. Also stored on the server were the results of about 2,000 laboratory tests, the university said. The break-in was discovered on July 14. Initial investigation has found no evidence that personal data was extracted or abused, according to the university.

Source: <http://news.com.com/University+of+Colorado+servers+hacked/21>

4. *July 22, InformationWeek* — **New phishing attacks fool users.** A new phishing attack that poses as a message from eBay Inc. is loose on the Web and fooling users with a genuine-looking message. The attack uses an e-mail that appears to come from eBay and says the company needs some information to protect the customer from Internet attacks. If users click on a link, they are taken to a form that asks for personal information, which is captured by scammers and could be used for identity theft and other problems. The messages were first spotted in Israel by security vendor Fortinet Inc., which reported Friday, July 22, that security appliances at its customer sites had recorded 46,000 hits by the phishing wave. Based on the number of attacks and the speed at which they're spreading, Fortinet said this phishing attack ranked in the top 10 of all time. "The best attacks are the ones that look real, like this one," says Pete Lindstrom, founder and analyst at Spire Security. However, the large number of phishing messages being sent out made this attack easier to spot. Lindstrom notes that eBay no longer asks customers to provide information using links within e-mails and instead uses other channels to communicate with them.
Source: <http://informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=166401789>
5. *July 21, InformationWeek* — **Advanced card fraud detection system to be built.** HSBC Holdings plc has teamed with business-intelligence software provider SAS Institute Inc. to build a state-of-the-art payment card fraud detection system. The software, to be rolled out in the United States next year, will give the \$1.3 trillion-asset bank a single tool for detecting fraudulent card transactions. It will replace disparate systems in use in the bank's regional operations in North America, Europe, and Asia. The system will make more accurate decisions about whether a card transaction may be fraudulent by examining pieces of data such as a change of address or telephone number. It also will reduce the likelihood of flagging legitimate transactions, sparing cardholders the inconvenience of having to speak to a representative over the phone while waiting at the checkout line. Banks lost \$788 million to credit card fraud in 2004, down from \$882 million in 2003, according to the Nilson Report, a card industry newsletter. A major factor in the decline has been the use of pattern detection systems by banks and credit-card networks that trigger an alert when unusual or suspicious activity is detected.
Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=KPBHCHOM0PGMWQSNDBCSKHSCJUMKJVN?articleID=166401440>
6. *July 21, Fox News* — **Ohio county citizens become victims of identity theft due to public document access.** Several residents of Hamilton County, OH, became victims of identity theft after their personal information, including their Social Security numbers, were posted on the Hamilton County Website. Hamilton County was one of the first counties in the nation to scan and post most of its court documents online, a move that former Hamilton County clerk Jim Cissell described as a time- and money-saving move for his office as well as citizens. "It allowed people who could not afford to hire an attorney during working hours to access things," said Cissell. "It allowed them to research at home," said Cissell. Hamilton County Clerk Greg Hartmann has begun removing all documents from the county's Website that contain Social Security numbers, a process that could take until the end of August. According to Hartmann, the county has over 20 million pages of documents available online. "Requesting a document with a Social Security number on it is going to require a trip to the courthouse," said Hartmann. "It really calls for a statewide, maybe a nationwide solution on public records," said Hartmann.

"And what should and shouldn't be in a public document," continued Hartmann.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0.2933.163277.00.html>

7. *July 21, Medill News Service* — **New steps to reduce identity theft.** Visa USA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched a nationwide campaign recently to improve data security, saying consumer identity theft can be reduced by a focus on the point of sale. Identity fraud doesn't always involve hackers breaking into a computer system. According to Visa and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, businesses should address four areas to improve the security of sensitive, including data storage — What kind of processing software or processor does the business use? What kind of data is collected and how is it stored? If purchase information is not stored electronically, sales receipts that contain account numbers should be protected; laws and standards — Does the business understand both the law and payment-industry requirements for protecting cardholder information? Customers should do business only with merchants that are compliant; checkout — businesses should train employees to stop skimming and to look for the important security features of credit cards; and access — businesses should limit employee access to cardholder information. Beginning next month, Visa and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will take their tips on the road, sponsoring a series of educational seminars.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0.aid.121904.00.asp>

8. *July 21, Boston Globe* — **Phishers wreak havoc on online banking.** Shortly after Wachovia Corp. sent an e-mail inviting recipients to go to a new log-in page as a result of its merger with First Union Corp., some savvy customers swamped Wachovia's call center to inform officials that criminals apparently were attempting to steal the financial information of Wachovia's customers through a bogus hyperlink. The problem was that the e-mail was authentic. Buried under an ever-increasing deluge of Internet spam and phishing attacks online banking customers have become so wary of Internet correspondence from financial institutions that bank officials must now think twice before sending out an e-mail to contact customers. "Phishers have done a pretty good job of wrecking e-mail," said Lawrence Baxter, chief e-commerce officer for Wachovia. "We've stopped all of that for that reason," said Baxter. During its next acquisition of SouthTrust Corp., Wachovia officials resorted to paper mail to inform customers of what was happening and what to do. Bruce Cundiff, of research firm Javelin Strategy & Research, said that Wachovia's example demonstrates eroding confidence in the online medium as a secure means of communication for financial institutions. "Consumers are made overaware of identity theft, and there's lack of trust in e-mail," he said.

Source: http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2005/07/21/phishers_wreak_havoc_on_online_banking/

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *July 25, The Associated Press* — **Three arrested in connection with failed London bomb attacks.** British police have arrested three men in connection with last week's failed attack against London's transit system Sunday, July 24. None of their identities have been released. Police also said they carried out several controlled explosions Sunday to destroy a package found in northwest London that may have been linked to devices used in the botched attacks. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Sunday the recent attacks in London and Egypt

appear to be the work of al Qaeda. Police were looking into possible links between the bombers who took part in the July 7 attacks against three subway cars and a bus and those involved in the failed July 21 bombings against identical targets. Their investigation is focused on four suspects from the failed bombings whose images were captured by closed circuit television cameras and released Friday. In another possible connection, some of the July 21 attackers may have visited the same Welsh whitewater rafting center as two of the July 7 suicide bombers: Mohammad Sidique Khan and Shahzad Tanweer. The two bombers went rafting there on July 4, according to the National Whitewater Center.

Source: <http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050725/NEWS03/107250045/-1/YOUTH>

10. *July 22, Washington Post* — **DC metro patrols grow as security tightens.** Washington, DC's Metro transit agency tightened security on Thursday, July 21, in response to the latest London bombings. Metro Transit Police Chief Polly L. Hanson said Metro officials are studying the idea of bag searches and will see how the practice works in New York, where the city's buses and subways carry seven million passengers a day. Also, Metro did a search of its 106-mile subway system, which was scheduled to begin after midnight Thursday. The last time Metro conducted such a search was immediately after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. Metro's sweep is the latest step in an ongoing effort to assess and tighten security in the mass-transit system of the nation's capital. Outside law enforcement agencies said they would help the transit police by offering teams of officers from across the region, and police are altering their shifts to try to confuse potential terrorists.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/21/AR2005072100683.html>

11. *July 22, Associated Press* — **Amtrak to resume Acela service to Boston.** Amtrak resumes Acela Express train service to Boston this weekend for the first time since pulling the high-speed fleet out of operation in April after discovering cracks in many of the trains' brake discs. Amtrak is slowly putting its 20-fleet Acela trains back into service after the cars are outfitted with new brakes. Amtrak resumed limited Acela service on July 11 from New York to Washington. Montreal's Bombardier Inc., which makes the trains, has said its target date for equipping the entire Acela fleet with the new brakes, made from a different design, is September. Bombardier is still investigating what caused the millimeter-size cracks in 317 of the Acela's 1,440 disc brake rotors. The cracks were found on all 20 Acela trains.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-07-21-acela_x.htm

12. *July 22, Associated Press* — **Report: O'Hare growth costs underestimated.** Chicago city officials have underestimated the cost of a proposed \$15 billion expansion of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport that's meant to relieve flight congestion nationwide, according to a government review of the project. An inaccurate assessment of the O'Hare project costs could affect funding for airports nationwide because cities compete for money from the same federal Airport Improvement Program, according to the report by Transportation Department inspector general Kenneth Mead. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) needs to verify the city's cost estimates will cover the project to build new runways and terminals even if it runs into delays and cost overruns. The proposed expansion plan, which has yet to receive FAA approval, calls for longer and wider runways and taxiways, new terminals and parking spaces for oversize jets and passenger jet bridges. The FAA's decision on the expansion project is

expected in September, agency spokesperson Greg Martin said.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-07-22-ohare-growth_x.htm

13. *July 22, Government Accountability Office — GAO-05-435: Border Patrol: Available Data on Interior Checkpoints Suggest Differences in Sector Performance (Report).* The U.S. Border Patrol, a component of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency, a part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), aims to apprehend persons who illegally enter the United States between official ports of entry, including potential terrorists, aliens, and contraband smugglers, thereby deterring or stopping illegal activity. The Patrol operates permanent and tactical (temporary) interior traffic checkpoints on major and secondary U.S. roads, mainly in the southwest border states where most illegal entries occur, as part of a multi-layer strategy to maximize detection and apprehension of illegal entrants. This report addresses (1) the role of interior checkpoints in the Patrol's strategy; (2) what is known about checkpoint costs and benefits; and (3) how checkpoints are evaluated and what performance measures indicate regarding their effectiveness. To better gauge the effects of border control efforts, the Government Accountability Office recommends that the CBP Commissioner (1) develop additional performance measures for productivity and effectiveness of interior checkpoints, and (2) include data on checkpoint performance, and improvements that might be made, in CBP's Performance and Annual Report. DHS concurred with the recommendations. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05435high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-435>
14. *July 22, Government Accountability Office — GAO-05-757: Coast Guard: Progress Being Made on Addressing Deepwater Legacy Condition Issues and Program Management, but Acquisition Challenges Remain (Report).* The Coast Guard has been asserting that its deepwater legacy assets are "failing at an unsustainable rate." After the events of September 11, 2001, the Coast Guard's deepwater missions expanded to include a greater emphasis on ports, waterways, and coastal security. These heightened responsibilities required changes to the Deepwater implementation plan to provide the assets with greater operational capabilities. To address these needs, in 2002, the Coast Guard began a multiyear acquisition program to replace or modernize its deepwater assets that is currently estimated to cost \$19 to \$24 billion. More recently, it began studying options for replacing or modernizing the assets more rapidly in an effort to avoid some of the costs that might be involved in keeping aging assets running for longer periods. This report addresses three questions related to this effort: (1) How has the condition of the Coast Guard's deepwater legacy assets changed during fiscal years 2000 through 2004? (2) What actions has the Coast Guard taken to maintain, upgrade, and better manage its deepwater legacy assets? and (3) What are the management challenges the Coast Guard faces in acquiring new assets, especially if a more aggressive acquisition schedule is adopted? Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05757high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-757>
15. *July 22, Government Accountability Office — GAO-05-864R: Aviation Security: Transportation Security Administration Did Not Fully Disclose Uses of Personal Information During Secure Flight Program Testing in Initial Privacy Notices, but Has Recently Taken Steps to More Fully Inform the Public. (Correspondence).* During the course of the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) ongoing review of the Secure Flight

program, it found that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) did not fully disclose to the public its use of personal information in its fall 2004 privacy notices as required by the Privacy Act. In particular, the public was not made fully aware of, nor had the opportunity to comment on, TSA's use of personal information drawn from commercial sources to test aspects of the Secure Flight program. On June 10, 2005, the GAO briefed TSA on its concerns about privacy protection issues related to Secure Flight testing. TSA officials stated that they recognized the merits of GAO's concerns, and on June 22, 2005, the agency published revised privacy notices to more fully disclose the nature of tests being conducted. In moving forward, TSA officials stated that they will put procedures in place to ensure that prior to making any change in testing procedures, the TSA Privacy Officer and TSA counsel would be consulted to determine whether a change to TSA's privacy notices would be required to inform the public. In its written comments to a draft of this letter, DHS reiterated that it recognized the merits of the issues raised by GAO, and that TSA acted immediately to address them. DHS also provided technical comments on the draft, which were incorporated as appropriate.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-864R>

16. *July 22, Washington Post* — **DC airspace authority changes weighed.** Department of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff are near agreement on a plan to give the military sole authority to shoot down civilian aircraft that violate restricted airspace over Washington, DC, a Pentagon official said on Thursday, July 21. Following a May 11 incident in which two Cessna pilots lost their way and invaded restricted airspace over Washington, the secretaries of Defense and Homeland Security are planning to give the military sole authority to shoot down civilian aircraft if it violates restricted airspace. Repeated incursions into the restricted airspace, which extends 2,000 square miles around Washington, have raised doubts about the effectiveness of the system. Pilots have violated the airspace 3,495 times since January 27, 2003, the Transportation Security Administration reported. Davi D'Agostino, testifying for the Government Accountability Office, Congress's audit arm, reported that nearly four years after the September 11, 2001, attacks, no single agency has been given responsibility to lead air defense efforts. The GAO urged the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to give a single agency responsibility for air defense in the capital region and the nation, warning that in a crisis, debilitating gaps among seven agencies remain.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/21/AR2005072101930.html?sub=AR>

17. *July 22, Washington Post* — **Metro's response to alert delayed.** Jittery about the bombings in London and told to be vigilant, Metro riders spotted an unattended backpack Friday, July 22, on the last car of a Blue Line train and did exactly as officials have been urging: they alerted the train operator. But the suspicious bag stayed on Train 401 as it rolled through two more stations — Metro Center, a major hub, and McPherson Square, a few blocks from the White House — before Metro officials took the train out of service and inspected the backpack. When the train pulled into McPherson Square, transit officials emptied the train car and pull it from service. Metro spokesperson Lisa Farbstein said she did not have enough information to explain the actions of the train operator, whether the operator followed Metro policy or what Metro policy is regarding the handling of unattended bags. The backpack contained two baseball hats and belonged to a child who left it on the train at the Smithsonian Station, Farbstein said. Metro officials said they have increased security since the latest attack in London this week.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/22/AR2005072201827.html?sub=AR>

18. *July 21, Seattle Times (WA)* — Speedy boats provide extra muscle for state ferry system.

Within 72 hours of the London terrorist bombings on July 7, military cargo planes arrived in Seattle carrying Coast Guard fast-patrol boats from San Diego. Manufactured in Port Orchard, Kitsap County, the Defender-class boats can motor at more than 60 miles per hour. As the nation's transportation system heads into a third week of heightened alert, the six San Diego-based boats continue to ply Elliott Bay, providing added security for Washington State Ferries. The added help from California came after Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced on the day of the London attacks that he was raising the nation's threat level, but only for mass-transit systems. "This includes regional and inter-city passenger rail, subways and metropolitan bus systems," Chertoff said. For Seattle, homeland-security efforts focused on the ferries. As Chertoff raised the threat level, Governor Christine Gregoire announced the State Patrol would increase canine security and the number of troopers on vessels and terminals.

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2002393108_c_guard21m.html

19. *July 20, San Francisco Chronicle* — Bay Area Transit agencies get grant to improve rail security.

Five Bay Area rail transit agencies have been awarded \$7.1 million in federal grant money to improve security on their systems. The money, which will be divided among the agencies, will go for more security cameras, expanded dog patrols, new emergency response equipment, staff anti-terrorism and anti-hijacking training and public education campaigns. The grant, which comes from a \$150 million transit security program administered by the Department of Homeland Security, requires transit agencies within a region to group together and apply jointly. In the Bay Area, the San Francisco Municipal Railway, BART, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (which operates Caltrain) and the Altamont Commuter Express Authority formed the Regional Transit Security Working Group to seek federal help.

Source: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/07/20/BAGV0DQDIC1.DTL>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture Sector

20. *July 22, Capital Press Agriculture Weekly (OR)* — Stripe rust poses new risk in Idaho.

Shortly after agricultural scientists confirmed stripe rust in Southern Idaho wheat fields in June, they warned farmers to scout their fields and spray if necessary. Now, as it nears harvest season, there's another warning: This year's crop isn't the only one at risk. Stripe rust, which has been absent from Southern Idaho for nearly 25 years, could easily show up again next year. Mild temperatures next winter, coupled with a seasonal overlap of infected plant material, could

spread the disease from one crop year to the next, University of Idaho (UI) scientists said. An unusually cool, wet spring set the stage for the outbreak, said Juliet Windes, a UI plant pathologist. Experts worry that volunteer grain or weeds could harbor the disease over the winter. It's a highly likely scenario, especially given the very late planting of some spring grain in the region, Windes said. "If we have a fall infection and if temperatures don't cool off enough to kill that plant material, we have the potential for the fungus to overwinter," she said. Source: <http://www.capitalpress.info/main.asp?SectionID=67&SubSectionID=792&ArticleID=18541&TM=72440.53>

21. *July 21, Animal and Plant Inspection Service* — **USDA amends New Mexico's zone designations regarding bovine tuberculosis.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced Thursday, July 21, that it is amending its bovine tuberculosis regulations regarding State and zone classifications by removing New Mexico from the list of modified accredited advanced States. APHIS will now list portions of Roosevelt and Curry counties in New Mexico as a modified accredited advanced zone and will add the remainder of the State to the list of accredited-free zones. Animal health officials in New Mexico have demonstrated to APHIS that the majority of the State meets the criteria for accredited-free status because the larger zone has zero percent prevalence of affected cattle or bison herds and has had no findings of tuberculosis in any cattle or bison herds for the last five years. New Mexico has complied with the conditions of the Uniform Methods and Rules. Portions of Roosevelt and Curry counties meet the criteria for modified accredited advanced status for cattle and bison. Within these two counties, there are two tuberculosis-affected cattle herds and New Mexico is conducting an aggressive program to eradicate the disease in the zone. There are now no affected herds in the remainder of the State. Source: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/news/2005/07/tbzone_vs.html
22. *July 21, Grants Pass News (OR)* — **Oregon State University veterinary lab drafted for homeland security.** The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University (OSU) has been designated a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network -- a consortium pushed to the forefront of the Nation's facilities dedicated to homeland security. "The National Animal Health Laboratory Network incorporates Federal, State, and local resources in a response to animal health emergencies, including foreign animal diseases, emerging diseases, and bioterrorist events," said Dr. Jerry Heidel, director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The network is composed of publicly supported veterinary laboratories that received Federal approval and financial support to conduct diagnostic testing for exotic animal diseases in support of the Nation's agriculture biosecurity and public health programs. The network was started in 2002 in response to concerns about safeguarding the health of livestock, poultry, companion animals, and wildlife, and protecting the public from disease agents that can infect both animals and humans. While the Federal funding needed to allow substantial upgrades to these laboratories has not yet materialized, smaller allocations are being made. Source: <http://www.grantpassnews.com/articles/index.cfm?artOID=306547&cp=4275>
23. *July 21, The Daily Times-Call (CO)* — **Private animal database may be wave of the future.** Cattle industry officials believe that confidentiality is one of the main areas of concerns with a national animal identification system (NAIS). This is one of the many reasons the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) this fall will begin operating an industry-managed

animal identification system designed to protect producer confidentiality and capture added value for producers. The system, which would be accessible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for disease surveillance, will be tested in October and is expected to be fully operational by January 1. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are seen as the most feasible electronic tracking technology, according to Dr. Marv Maul, chairman of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association's Animal Health Committee, but that could change. A privately run database could change with new and improved technologies in the future. Maul also says the private tracking system could be useful in preventing foot-and-mouth disease, which he perceives as an even bigger threat than mad cow. Another advantage to a private system, according to Jay Truitt, vice president of government affairs for the NCBA, is that a private database and tracking system will likely be adopted by the industry more quickly and will come online much faster.

Source: <http://www.longmontfyi.com/Local-Story.asp?id=2758>

24. *July 21, Farm and Ranch Guide (ND)* — **DNA test to study, combat Fusarium head blight in wheat.** Identifying fungi that cause Fusarium head blight in cereal grains has become much easier, due to a new DNA-based test developed by Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists in Peoria, IL. At least 16 species of Fusarium can cause head blight, a disease that can reduce yields and contaminate cereals with toxins that can make grain unsafe for food or feed. From 1998 to 2000, these pathogens accounted for \$2.7 billion in losses to U.S. agriculture. The test makes it possible for the first time to simultaneously identify all of the major head blight pathogens and predict their toxin profiles. Visual inspection is currently used to spot these pathogens, but it cannot be used to identify which of the species is present in a field. To improve detection and epidemiology, the Peoria scientists devised a test that pinpoints nucleotide variations that genetically distinguish one head blight species from another. The test relies on DNA "probes" designed by Ward and colleagues. When a probe matches the DNA in a head blight sample, the DNA is fluorescently labeled and detected using a special camera and a high-power laser, providing unambiguous identification of the head blight pathogen and its toxin potential.

Source: http://www.farmandranchguide.com/articles/2005/07/21/ag_news/production_news/prod22.txt

25. *July 21, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy* — **West Nile shot for horses is first licensed DNA vaccine.** Federal officials say a new West Nile virus (WNV) vaccine for horses, licensed last week, represents a breakthrough that may lead to important benefits for human vaccine development. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the vaccine is the world's first licensed DNA vaccine — one that uses small pieces of the target virus's genetic material instead of using a weakened or killed form of the whole virus. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said it issued a license for the vaccine to Fort Dodge Laboratories, Fort Dodge, IA. The CDC helped the company develop the vaccine. The CDC said DNA vaccines offer important advantages over traditional vaccines. Once a vaccine model for an organism is developed, it can be adapted fairly quickly for similar organisms, which can be a major advantage in an emerging epidemic. Also, DNA vaccines are less vulnerable to changes in temperature, a major asset for vaccination campaigns in developing countries. In addition, horses that have received a DNA vaccine can be distinguished from those that have been naturally infected, which is helpful for disease surveillance, the CDC said. Fort Dodge expects to make the vaccine commercially available to veterinarians early in 2006.

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Food Sector

26. *July 22, Casper Star Tribune (WY)* — **Montana governor orders beef inspection.** With Canadian cattle beginning to be trucked across the U.S. border again, Governor Brian Schweitzer on Thursday, July 21, ordered that all animals destined for Montana be checked to ensure they comply with new Federal restrictions. Veterinarians, acting on behalf of Montana's Livestock Department, will inspect feeder cattle to determine if they are younger than 30 months, not pregnant and have the mandated "CAN" brand, Schweitzer said. Owners of the cattle will be required to pay the cost of the inspections, which the governor estimated would be \$3–\$5 a head. Schweitzer said he will urge governors in Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming to take similar action. Rob McNabb, assistant manager of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, said producers won't pay a second time for the same inspection they finance before their cows can be shipped out of that country. However, Schweitzer said the inspection requirement will take effect "as a soon as possible" and the added cost will not discourage Canadian ranchers from shipping cattle to Montana because the amount is relatively small compared to the value of protecting the reputation of Montana beef, he said.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2005/07/22/news/regional/a1ae447284c3b64c87257045007db4ba.txt>

27. *July 22, Asbury Park Press (NJ)* — **Salmon salad recall reported by New Jersey county.** New Jersey's Ocean County Health Department has reported the recall of Golden Taste Baked Salmon Salad sold in 7.5-ounce, 3.5-ounce, and five-pound plastic containers because they may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, an organism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in children and others with weaker immune systems. The product, coded 8/11/05, was distributed to retail stores throughout New Jersey and New York.

Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050722/NEWS02/507220432/1070/NEWS02>

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Water Sector

28. *July 22, Associated Press* — **Senators demand more information on gasoline additive.** Twenty-one senators asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for more information Thursday, July 21, about an internal paper that reportedly concludes that the gasoline additive MTBE may cause cancer. Key elements of the document, which has not been made public, surfaced as lawmakers considered whether to shield the makers of MTBE from product liability lawsuits as a result drinking water contamination in at least 36 states. MTBE, which was put into gasoline to cut air pollution, has been banned in several states because of complaints that it adds a foul smell and turpentine-like taste to drinking water when it leaks into water supplies. But the draft EPA paper, described as a preliminary document that has not

been peer-reviewed, raises broader health concerns from MTBE than widely assumed, according to opponents of the proposed liability shield. EPA spokesperson Eryn Witcher said the draft paper reflects "incomplete information" developed early in the MTBE review process and has yet to undergo internal or external peer reviews. "This draft should not be construed to represent any agency determination or policy," said Witcher. She said the paper is part of a broader assessment of MTBE's risks that won't be completed for another year or more.

Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/22gas.html>

- 29. July 21, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works — Water infrastructure bill introduced.** A water infrastructure bill has been introduced, calling for \$38 billion over five years in provisional funding toward the nation's cities and municipalities. The bill aims to address aging water infrastructure nationwide. The legislation updates and improves upon the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Funds, provides targeted grant assistance, and includes incentives for innovative and non-traditional approaches to address water pollution.

Source: <http://epw.senate.gov/pressitem.cfm?party=rep&id=240642>

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Public Health Sector

- 30. July 24, Associated Press — Chinese team studies mysterious illness.** Hong Kong hospitals were on the lookout Sunday, July 24, for a mysterious illness apparently related to pig farming that has killed nine people in a southern Chinese city and reportedly causes fever-like symptoms, vomiting, and internal bleeding. Twenty people were hospitalized with the disease from June 24 to July 21 in the city of Ziyang in southern Sichuan province, the Hong Kong government said Saturday, July 23, citing information from Sichuan officials. Nine died, one was discharged, and 10 are still in the hospital, including six in critical condition, according to the Hong Kong government. World Health Organization spokesperson Bob Dietz said the cases may be linked to farmers who have slaughtered either pigs or sheep. The Chinese government has dispatched a team to investigate. For now, the disease doesn't appear to be spreading, Dietz said. The pigs in question were infected with streptococcus bacteria, a common pathogen in humans and domestic animals.

Source: http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/ats-ap_health10jul24.1.7078282.story?coll=sns-ap-tophealth

- 31. July 23, Agence France Presse — Pigs in Indonesian district to be killed to stem bird flu.** Nearly 200 pigs will be destroyed in a district near the Indonesian capital where three people died of bird flu as part of efforts to stem the deadly virus, an official said. Agriculture ministry official Mathur Riady was quoted as saying by the state Antara news agency that 196 pigs on two bird flu infected farms in Tangerang district would be killed on Sunday, July 24. Tests have shown that several pigs on the farms, just southwest of Jakarta, had been infected with bird flu, raising concerns that the virus could easily jump to humans. On Wednesday, July 20, the government said a man and his two daughters who died this month in Tangerang had tested positive for the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus, which has killed 55 other people in Southeast Asia. The health ministry said it was possible the three had been infected by a virus originating from the farms nine miles from where they lived.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050723/hl_afp/healthindonesiaf lu_050723195811;_ylt=AhoV3Hl.Rpd15MGcoLVCOe2JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

32. *July 22, Jakarta Post (Indonesia)* — **Polio cases climb to 155 in Indonesia.** The number of children affected by the polio virus outbreak in Indonesia has risen to 155 with the confirmation of 33 new cases, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday, July 22. Bardan Jung Rana, a WHO medical officer in Indonesia, said 33 new cases were all reported in areas already infected with the disease, and that the rise has been gradual. The new cases were found over the past two weeks on western Java island, said WHO spokesperson Sari Setiogi. Indonesia will launch new rounds of a vaccination campaign on August 30 and September 27 targeting 24.3 million children nationwide. The polio outbreak — Indonesia's first in 10 years — has prompted authorities to vaccinate up to 6.5 million children.

Source: http://www.thejakartapost.com/detaillatestnews.asp?fileid=20_050722180538&irec=4

33. *July 22, Associated Press* — **First West Nile virus death this year in California.** A Kings County man is the first Californian to die this year from West Nile virus, state health officials announced. The elderly man had other serious health problems, but West Nile fever "tipped the balance" for him, Kings County health officer Michael MacLean said on Thursday, July 21. Two Porterville residents also have tested positive for the disease since Tuesday, July 19, a 19-year-old woman and 48-year-old woman, said Danae Hansen, Tulare County public health officer. Health officials identified the 48-year-old woman's infection when she was hospitalized with West Nile meningitis. The 19-year-old woman had no symptoms, and her infection was discovered when she tried to donate blood, according to Hansen. So far this year, nine cases have been diagnosed in Tulare County residents. Kings County has had two diagnosed cases of the disease. Fresno, Kern, and Merced have each reported one human infection.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/breaking_new s/12199626.htm

34. *July 21, New York Times* — **U.S. will offer doctors free electronic records system.** Many doctors use computers to file health insurance claims, but only 20 percent to 25 percent of the nation's 650,000 licensed doctors outside the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs are using electronic patient records. Now, however, Medicare, which says the lack of electronic records is one of the biggest impediments to improving health care, has decided to step in. In an unprecedented move, it said it planned to announce that it would give doctors — free of charge — software to computerize their medical practices. An office with five doctors could save more than \$100,000 by choosing the Medicare software rather than buying software from a private company, officials say. The program begins next month, and the software is a version of a well-proven electronic health record system, called Vista, that has been used for two decades by hospitals, doctors, and clinics with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Medicare will also provide a list of companies that have been trained to install and maintain the system. Given Medicare's heft, the software giveaway could transform American medicine, said John Wasson, a Dartmouth Medical School health care researcher. But, Wasson added, it may take a while. "If you look at it from a five-year point of view, it will make a huge difference," he said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/21/health/21records.html>

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

35. *July 23, State Journal–Register (IL)* — Illinois town completes homeland security drill.

Police and other officials in Springfield, IL, conducted a weeklong homeland security drill that concluded Friday, July 22. The exercises were valuable because they prepared everyone from police to public health to street workers for the worst, said Ralph Caldwell, Springfield's homeland security director and assistant police chief. The tests also were credited for helping expose weaknesses in the city's emergency response system. One scenario had a bomb exploding at the nearby City Water, Light and Power plant, releasing chemicals into the air. At the same time, police were dealing with bombs both inside and outside a school as well as terrorists holding hostages at an apartment complex. The trio of events actually caused a legitimate failure of the city's radio communication system because of so many officers talking at once. Caldwell said the problem was fixed within 30 minutes. The list of agencies and organizations involved in the drill approached 40 and included practically all city government departments, law enforcement from state and county jurisdictions, other state agencies, local schools, hospitals, the U.S. Army and the Springfield Housing Authority. An estimated 900 people took part at some point during the week.

Source: <http://www.sj-r.com/sections/news/stories/61758.asp>

36. *July 22, Pioneer Press (MN)* — Secretary Chertoff observes St. Paul emergency response.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff visited St. Paul, MN, on Friday, July 22, to observe an emergency response drill and visit with local public safety officials.

"These kinds of exercises always identify lessons that you can learn, but I think it ought to inspire a sense of confidence in the people in this city and in this community about the fact that their leadership is very focused on the kind of threats we're concerned about and that they're very good at working together in a cooperative fashion," Chertoff said at a press briefing at St. Paul Police headquarters after the drill. Chertoff also said that it was important that Americans continue with their everyday lives. "The greatest way to deny terrorists a victory is to continue to live life the way we want to live it, with our prosperity and our freedom, and I know people in this state are determined to continue to do that," he said.

Source: http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/news/local/121988_12.htm

37. *July 22, Miami Herald (FL)* — Agencies conduct bio–terrorism drill in Doral. Several government agencies in Miami–Dade County, FL, conducted a bio–terrorism disaster response drill Friday, July 22, in the Doral area. Miami–Dade's Health Department, School Board, Office of Emergency Management and Doral Police Department participated in the exercise at Doral Middle School. The drill is part of the county's Cities Readiness Initiative plan. It focused on identifying logistical needs to manage a real bioterrorism event, dispensing of preventative medication during a public health emergency and assessing the effectiveness of the county's dispensing plan.

Miami–Dade County Homeland Security Website:

<http://www.miamidade.gov/Homeland/home.asp>

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/12198261.htm>

38. *July 21, Anderson Independent–Mail (SC)* — **South Carolina table–top drill includes stadium explosion.** A homeland security exercise in South Carolina was played out in command centers in Abbeville, Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties and at Clemson University Thursday, July 21. The six–hour table–top exercise included an explosion at the university’s Memorial Stadium during a football game, suspicious packages at Oconee Memorial Hospital and the Abbeville Opera House as well as a train accident involving a tractor trailer rig in Anderson. The Anderson event also featured a hazardous material spill at the wreck site, which required an evacuation from surrounding areas.

Source: http://www.independentmail.com/and/news/article/0.1886.AND_8203_3945098.00.html

39. *July 18, Pittsburgh Tribune–Review (PA)* — **Terror drill centers on rapid response.** A weapons of mass destruction training exercise was held Saturday, July 16, in West Newton, PA, by the Westmoreland County Department of Public Safety and the Region 13 Joint Terrorism Task Force. The drill, called Operation Twisted Rail, involved a staged attack by five mock terrorists on a train traveling through the borough from Washington, DC, to Pittsburgh, said Richard Matason, the county public safety director. The drill centered around first responders evacuating the vehicle's passengers and treating them appropriately. It was unique in that it focused not so much on preventing the initial calamity but in figuring out how to treat and protect people and clean up the damage in the hours that followed, said county department of public safety spokesperson Daniel Stevens. The rescue phase included the testing of newly developed technological equipment, such as breathing apparatuses and boots resistant to the most acrid odors and chemicals. Officials of Region 13 and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency also observed how responders analyzed the situation and made appropriate decisions. Such exercises aim to build a stronger network of contacts in the state's counterterrorism field, said Tim Baughman, PEMA western area director. The drill uncovered communication issues between various responders, several participants said.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/search/s_354389.html

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

40. *July 22, Linux Security* — **zlib buffer overflow.** zlib improperly handles invalid data streams which could lead to a buffer overflow. By creating a specially crafted compressed data stream, attackers can overwrite data structures for applications that use zlib, resulting in arbitrary code execution or a Denial of Service. There is no known workaround at this time.

Source: <http://www.linuxsecurity.com/content/view/119860>

41. *July 21, Security Tracker* — **Mozilla Firefox xpcom race condition lets remote users crash the browser.** A vulnerability was reported in Mozilla Firefox in the cross platform component object model (xpcom) implementation. A remote user can cause a target user's browser to crash.

A remote user can create specially crafted HTML that, when loaded by the target user, will exploit a race condition in executing dom calls to delete objects in the page before they have been referenced. As a result, an access violation will occur and the target user's browser will crash. A demonstration exploit is available. No solution is currently known to be available. Source: <http://securitytracker.com/alerts/2005/Jul/1014550.html>

42. *July 18, Xerox* — **Vulnerabilities in the Xerox MicroServer Web Server.** There are multiple vulnerabilities in the web server code that could allow unauthorized access to the web server including vulnerabilities that could bypass authentication; specially constructed HTTP requests can cause denial of service or allow unauthorized file access on an attacked machine; and cross-site scripting allowing contents of web pages to be modified in an unauthorized manner. If successful, an attacker could make unauthorized changes to the system configuration. Customer and user passwords are not exposed. A patch is available. This patch is a cumulative patch that incorporates the security patches documented in Security Bulletins XRX04-002 (P4), XRX04-007 (P10), XRX04-009 (P17) and XRX05-005 (P21) for the products listed below.

Source: http://www.xerox.com/downloads/usa/en/c/cert_XRX05_007.pdf

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT has received reports of root-level attacks being distributed by SDBot variants, possibly involving Port 10102 activity, increased scanning of port 1433, probably related to the new MySQL vulnerabilities (See below), and scanning of Port 22 (SSH), probably related to recently reported SSH vulnerabilities and Hacker use of SSH to provide themselves with secure, hidden access to compromised systems. Please watch your flows and be alert for the appearance of new applications/daemons connecting to the Internet.

A remotely triggerable access violation error has been reported in Veritas NetBackup version 5.1. The issue occurs in the NDMP service (TCP port 10000) when a 'config' message request is handled that contains a 'TIME_STAMP' value that is out of range. The information that was posted discussed only a Denial of Service attack for this issue, however the full scope and severity of this vulnerability is not currently known for certain.

Additionally, an exploit module for the Metasploit Framework, which targets the Veritas Backup Exec Remote Agent for Windows Servers Authentication Buffer Overflow Vulnerability (BID 14022), which is accessible over TCP port 10000, was made available on June 24, 2005, and shortly after, widespread exploitation was recorded.

As a precaution, Administrators are advised to filter TCP port 10000 at the network perimeter until further research in regards to this issue is completed.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (---), 445 (microsoft-ds), 6881 (bittorrent), 27015 (halflife), 80 (www), 135 (epmap), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4672 (eMule), 25 (smtp)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

43. *July 24, New York Times* — Death toll rises to at least 90 in bombings at Egyptian resort.

The death toll from three bombs at the Sharm el Sheik Red Sea resort rose sharply on Saturday, July 23. The Egyptian authorities said at least 90 people had been killed in an attack strikingly similar to one that tore apart resorts farther up the coast of the Sinai Peninsula nine months ago. The latest attack, the worst in Egypt, ripped through an upscale hotel, a local market, and a parking lot in a synchronized series of blasts that witnesses and the authorities said had occurred about five minutes apart. Several hours after the bombings an extremist group claimed responsibility on an Islamic Website. The group, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades of al Qaeda in Syria and Egypt, also claimed to have carried out a similar series of bombings that killed 34 people last October at and near the resort town of Taba. Within hours, a second group, which identified itself as the Holy Warriors of Egypt, claimed responsibility in a fax to newspapers and gave the names of five people it identified as the bombers. The dead and injured included significant numbers of European tourists and Egyptians, with at least 240 people wounded, said Essam Sharif, director of emergency medicine in Sharm el Sheik.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/24/international/middleeast/24egypt.html?hp&ex=1122264000&en=9e973dd60ffafa32&ei=5094&par_tner=homepage

44. *July 24, Associated Press* — Explosion hits train in Russia's Dagestan region. A bomb exploded beneath a train in Russia's violence-plagued Dagestan region on Sunday, July 24, killing one person and injuring four others, police said. The explosive device went off under the first car of the train as it headed to the regional capital, Makhachkala, from the northwestern town of Khasavyurt, said Akhmed Magomayev, deputy chief of the region's railroad police department. The train car derailed and a crater was left in the track bed. A woman who was among five people injured died on the way to a hospital, Magomayev said. Authorities were trying to determine the strength of the bomb, which was apparently set off by remote control,

about six miles from Khasavyurt, Magomayev said. Dagestan, which borders war-ravaged Chechnya, has been plagued by increasing violence believed connected with insurgents and criminal gangs. The number of terrorist attacks in the region has more than doubled this year to 70, a Russian human rights group said last week. Also Sunday, police said two powerful explosive devices were found in a car in the southern city of Kaspiisk. Regional Interior Ministry spokesperson Angela Martirosova said authorities also found in the car automatic rifles, bullet cartridges, plastic explosives, and other materials.

Source: <http://www.macleans.ca/topstories/news/shownews.jsp?content=w072408A>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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